

# THE CHEYENNE TRANSPORTER.

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## OTHERWISE AND PERSONAL.

HENRY GEORGE is 47 years old.

ARABI PASHA is teaching school at Colombo, in Ceylon.

CONGRESSMAN REAGAN is said to be a ventriloquist of no ordinary power.

THE Boston fund for the widow of Gen. Hancock has ceased to grow at the \$8,800 mark.

It is reported that the Order of the Garter will be conferred upon the emperor of China.

A DUBLIN philanthropist, Timothy Sexton, left \$40,000 for the benefit of infirm preachers.

T. W. HIGGINSON, the writer, because of delicate health, does not allow himself to go out after dark.

KAISER WILHELM expects personally to attend the military maneuvers of September next at Strasburg.

MR. POWDERLY, the Knights of Labor king, never talks politics. He hasn't time, he says, to think of it.

THE eldest son of Secretary Bayard, it is stated, will wed in June a Miss Deacon, of Fort Pendleton, W. Va.

MME. CHENEVARD has passed over a golden purse, with 3,000,000 francs in it, to the French Academy of Fine Arts.

ROSE COGHAN is a neighbor of Samuel J. Tilden, having recently purchased a villa adjoining that statesman's home.

MRS. ELLA WHEELER-WILCOX says it is like waiting for your epitaph to wait for accepted articles to be published by magazines.

MRS. JULIA WARD HOWE will succeed her daughter, Mrs. Anagnos, in the presidency of the Meta-physical club of Boston.

MME. ALBANI will sing Baron Tennyson's ode at the opening of the colonial exhibition next week. Sir Arthur Sullivan will conduct the orchestral rendition, and both the queen and Baron Tennyson will be in attendance.

PRINCE BISMARCK failed to get his plover eggs this spring. One hundred of those eggs have been sent to him from Jever on every birthday anniversary for many years, but this season the long winter kept the plovers in the south.

THE students and alumni of Cornell university are circulating a petition requesting the board of trustees to pension Prof. Roehrig, the noted linguist, on his retirement from the faculty. He has been at the head of the Oriental department in that college for seventeen years.

LIEUT. GOV. AMES, of Massachusetts gave away trees on last Arbor day to any North Easton people who would set them out. He gives the town this year \$2,000 to be used in planting shade trees along the public highways, and has purchased twenty-five hundred trees for that purpose.

ADMIRAL MAXSE, of the English navy, pays \$115 a week for his rooms at a New York hotel. His service and meals are extra, and must bring his bill up to nearly \$200 for himself alone. At another hotel a retired Californian pays \$80 a day, and John W. Mackey's rooms cost him \$100 a week.

## BEVIS MARKS SYNAGOGUE.

An Old Building in London of Historical Interest Threatened with Destruction.

The Bevis Marks synagogue, the only building of genuine historical interest in England which the Jews can boast, is at the present moment threatened with destruction at the hands of a portion of its own governing body, to the dismay of the majority of its congregants and of the community in general—at least of those of them who prefer sentiment and old associations to merely money considerations and convenience. "Bevis Marks" is not, as many erroneously suppose, the first synagogue ever founded here. The Jews, who settled in England about A. D. 750, are known to have possessed one in Old Jewry in the earlier portion of the twelfth century, but the building, together with all the other traces of Hebrew settlement, was swept away when, a little more than a century later, at the instance of the pope, the whole Jewish colony, numbering nearly 17,000 persons, was banished the country. In 1585 Sixtus V. rescinded the edict against the Jews, but it was not till 1650, or 370 years after their exile that they ventured to return. The permission to resettle was accorded, or at any rate not withheld, by Oliver Cromwell, the Jews' great benefactor of the time, in answer to the prayer of Menasseh ben Israel, a rabbi much esteemed by the protector, who a few years later granted him a pension. No sooner was the new colony founded than they set about establishing a synagogue in King street, Duke's place; but after forty years' service the building, being found insufficient for its purpose, was pulled down and was replaced by the present large and quaint edifice in Bevis Marks.

The section of the Jewish community who thus succeeded in gaining a foothold in England consisted almost exclusively of Hebrew "aristocracy"—learned, large-minded men who had been merchant princes, philosophers, and doctors in Spain and Portugal, trusted and honored by their respective countries before they too were thrown into exile; and they trace back their noble line of descent,—for no one is more proud of birth and blood than your Spanish or Portuguese Jew,—and point out with pride how their ancestors were men of light or leading, and power, too, when their brethren of Germany and Poland—the later importation into Germany—were trafficking as peddlers and money-lenders and such other miserable occupations as the persecution of their oppressors graciously permitted them to carry on.

Thus the present synagogue of Bevis Marks (originally Burle's Marks, the spot occupied by the abbots of Bury) is the chief, and indeed the only, monument of Anglo-Judica worth preserving on account of its interesting historical associations, the only link binding the latter-day Jew to his much-beloved past. In 1698, or thereabouts, the building was begun; its main-beam—at one time the mast of a frigate of the fleet—was presented as an unprecedented mark of royal favor, and appreciated as such, by Queen Anne. From the ceiling were suspended the lamps and chandeliers which, together with some of the benches, had belonged to the old King Street synagogue, and which had been brought over from Holland many years before. In 1702 the building, constructed to accommodate about six hundred worshippers, was consecrated for divine worship; and some years later Benjamin Mendez da Costa, a wealthy merchant, whose ancestor had been physician to Queen Catherine of Braganza, purchased the freehold and transferred it to the "Holy Congregation of the Gates of Heaven."

Among the members of this synagogue in days gone by, names honored and revered by the community, are the Bernals (now Bernal-Osbornes), the Ricardos, the D'Aguilars, the Rodrigues, the Mendezes, the Mocattas, the D'Israelis. Here sat the elder D'Israeli—Isaac, the author of "The Curiosities of Literature"—for many years one of the principal members of the congregation, until a dispute led to his secession; and here beside him sat his little son, the future Lord Beaconsfield, who at the age of 6, after his father's death, was baptized by Samuel Rogers, the banker-poet. The last ceremony of

special interest held within the synagogue's walls was the celebration of Sir Montefiore's centenary, on which occasion an old lady present, bent with the weight of 104 years, was heard to express the hope (as, leaning on a relative's arm, she was walking from the building) that "Sir Moses might live to be an old man."

With the deplorable present intention of the elders of the congregation to demolish this interesting old place we have nothing whatever to do; but the facts of the case are not without interest. It appears that the governing body, the constitution of which is peculiar and of very ancient date, and altogether arbitrary and autocratic, is composed of rich men who, now living in opulence in the West end, desire to pull down the present building (replacing it for their poorer brethren they leave behind with a little synagogue somewhere else), to sell the extremely valuable site, and with the money thus obtained to erect a second Portuguese "shool" in the west. The opponents of the scheme contend that though they have no vote in the matter, their wishes should be consulted; that if the rich West-enders want a new synagogue in their own neighborhood they can well afford to build one for themselves, without taking their beloved brick and mortar record from them; they contest their warden's right to deal thus with Da Costa's gift to them all, and they declare they will appeal to the charity commissioners for protection, and to whom ever else can help them, well knowing, however, that their rich opponents by fighting them can force their hands. How this will terminate will be known before the present month expires. Jews are generally credited with an inordinate love of race association and of money considerations; it will be interesting to observe which will prevail in this case. It is to be hoped, if solely from an antiquarian point of view, that the old building may be spared.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

## Electric Railways.

An important feature of electric railways will be the use of their power for many minor purposes. Not the least valuable is the lighting of the cars by electricity. There is no need to dwell on the imperfections of the present system of lighting railway-cars. In a few drawing-room and sleeping cars the electric light has been tried with success only moderate, and dynamos stop when the train stops. Accumulators are necessarily bulky, and, though some progress in their use has been made abroad, little or nothing has been done with them here. In an electric railway the use of the power necessary for making the cars almost as light as day will hardly be noticed at the central station. Electric headlights are coming into use; the advantages will be gained at less cost on electric railways. The possibility of heating cars by electricity has been discussed, but nothing has yet been accomplished toward making the cost anywhere nearly as cheap as coal. It is probable, however, that there will be a great advance in this direction. When we have electric heating apparatus, the danger from fire in case of accident already greatly reduced by the use of electric lights and fireless locomotives, will be at a minimum.

Already the beginning has been made. The infant art is taking its first steps—short, weak, tottering, to be sure, yet full of promise of the growth to come. Will the public stretch out a helping hand? Will the public nourish the child, not for what it is, but for what it may be in future years? The steam railway had a harder fight to make than the electric railway has so far had. By its own merit it triumphed at last. The child survived, and now as a man is doing a good share of the work of the world. Another child promises in time to come to do that work better. Shall we not give it a speedy chance to fulfill the promises?—*Luce on Electric Railways.*

## Well Applied.

Wife—"What is a chestnut, my dear?"

Husband—"A chestnut, love, is a story that has been told over and over again. Why?"

Wife—"Nothing. Only it's funny that you should bring a chestnut with you every time you come home late at night."—*Lowell Citizen.*

## A Brazilian Boycott.

When was the first boycott established and in what land? Ireland has given currency to the word and has made popular the system of getting even with obnoxious officials. But long before Capt. Boycott was beleaguered in his house by the irate peasantry whose enmity he had incurred the some ostracising of other landlords in other lands had been carried into effect.

Brazil is perhaps the country which most people would consider the least likely to resort to the boycott, and yet in the second decade of the present century it had a very lively and thorough one. Some time since a well-known gentleman, of this city, whose business often takes him to Cuba heard in Havana considerable talk about an extraordinary document which the citizens of a Brazilian town had issued against religion and its votaries on account of a long and disastrous drought. He tried hard to obtain a copy of it, but without avail, until within a few days past, when he received a clipping from a paper with the coveted curiosity.

It is in Spanish, and the following is a translation of it:

The official paper of the state of Morelos copies the following decree, published in 1820 in the town of Cuthanas, empire of Brazil:

TO THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN AND DEPARTMENT OF CUTHANAS: Whereas, Considering that the Supreme Maker has not acted rightly toward this province and town; that only once in the whole of last year it rained a single shower, and that during all this winter, in spite of the religious processions, novenas, and prayers, it has not rained a single drop, and consequently the crop of chestnuts, on which this department is dependent for its prosperity, has been lost:

Resolved, 1. That if, in the peremptory term of eight days, to be counted after the publication of this decree, rain does not fall abundantly, nobody will go to mass or say any prayers.

2. That if the drought still continue eight days more in addition the churches and chapels will be set on fire, and missals and rosaries and any other object of devotion will be destroyed.

3. That if finally rain does not fall on a third term of eight days longer the clerics, monks, nuns, and saintly women will be put to death; and at present ample time is given to everybody to count their sins of every kind and description, that thus the Supreme Maker will certainly understand with whom He has to deal.

This plain avowal of direful events to follow in the event of rain not falling appears to have had the effect of leading the clergy to heartier invocations, for as there is no record of the wholesale killing of these professors of religion it is supposed that the heavens opened and the town of Cuthanas was drenched with showers.—*New York Herald.*

## Come to Time, Young Man.

Never wedding, ever wooing,  
Still a love-lorn heart pursuing,  
Read you not the wrong you're doing,  
In my cheek's pale hue?  
All my life with sorrow strewing;  
Wed or cease to woo.

—Campbell.

## A Slight Mistake.

They were sitting on the cable car. It was on the dummy. The rain had given the climate a rest for an hour, and they were going home from Mary Anderson.

"Don't," she whispered to him.

"Don't what?"

"Don't press my hand so hard and take away your arm."

"What do you mean?" he whispered, and glared across her at a man on the other side.

"Fare, please?" said the conductor, and she found she had been squeezing the conductor's hand, and he—well—he humored her.—*Chicago Times.*

## An Inference.

A Frenchwoman confesses to having attended 722 balls in the effort to catch a husband, and only to have caught instead bronchitis fourteen times, pleurisy thrice, and 120 colds in the head. The inference is plain that she wears her dresses too low and dances very badly.